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Bill:

As I mentioned this morning, [redacted] were successful yesterday in focusing Nedzi's attention on some of the problems raised by the amendments to the Foreign Assistance Act which relate to intelligence activities. Nedzi said he would talk to some of his colleagues but we are not sure how far he will go on this. I think it would be useful if you called Nedzi and expressed your personal concern on this subject. The points of concern are:

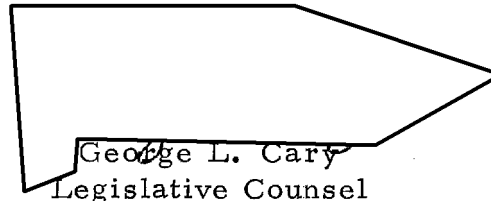
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a. That these amendments go considerably beyond the scope of the agreement which you and Secretary Kissinger made with the leadership of the House Foreign Affairs and Armed Services Committees and would appear to establish a broad area of legislative oversight by the Foreign Affairs Committee rather than the more limited informational jurisdiction agreed to with regard to intelligence activities relating to foreign policy and the informational oversight granted the Committee by reform legislation (Bolling/Hansen). (This is an argument that you would not be able to make formally, as Stennis requested, but is one that Nedzi can and should make. He is in a position to do so since he has exercised vigorous oversight over the Agency and has held hearings on his own legislation which includes a much more desirable reporting provision.)

b. That the proposed Foreign Assistance Act amendments would generate a proliferation of sensitive information not only on matters within existing rules and agreements but on sensitive activities not directly related to foreign policy and availability of such information to all members under House Rule XI. (Certainly [redacted] is a case in point. In addition we will be going before the Diggs and the Zablocki Subcommittees next week and in the future and the amendments would give them a wide open opportunity to force testimony on covert operations in these forums.)

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In summary, I think you should state that you realize it is a difficult problem for him to deal with and you are committed to the informal agreement and cannot object to the House Rule but you are concerned about the prospect of widespread dissemination of much sensitive information.



George L. Cary  
Legislative Counsel

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